

November 28, 2001

emerged the victor of this program which placed regular individuals in the roles of investigators in a fictitious town beleaguered by a serial murderer. Angel earned quite a few fans throughout the airing of the show and today a number of webpages are dedicated to his memory by these devoted fans who felt like they knew the charming New Yorker. Angel, who solved the mystery and caught the "killer," was awarded \$250,000 and a brand new Jeep Cherokee. He told a reporter after winning the show that he was giving part of his winnings to his father so that he could retire. He said that another part was going to help his nieces and nephews with their educations.

Mr. Speaker, the number of heroes emerging from the events on September 11th continues to grow. Our firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who risked their lives daily before September 11th and have everyday since, are national treasures. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating one of these treasured heroes; Angel Juarbe.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2722, the Clean Diamond Trade Act, and I thank Congressmen HOUGHTON, RANGEL and HALL for their dedication to finding a consensus on this issue. Thanks to their work, the diamond industry, human rights organizations and American consumers can rest assured that their government is dedicated to eliminating the funding of civil war, and of terrorist organizations from diamond profits.

H.R. 2722, prohibits the importation of rough diamonds, or polished diamonds, into the United States unless the exporting country has a system of controls, consistent with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/56 adopted on December 1, 2000, or that is consistent with an equivalent international agreement. This bill also prohibits the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States from engaging in projects involving the mining, polishing or sale of diamonds in a country that fails to meet these same requirements.

I believe this bill will finally address the massive human suffering that has occurred as a result of the trade of conflict diamonds in Africa. This tragedy, which has driven over 6 million people from their homes and resulted in over 2 million deaths, has gone unaddressed for too long. I encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 2722, so the association between diamonds and Americans can once again be love, not violence.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, since the April 3, 2001 introduction of H.R. 1343, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, 199 members from both sides of the aisle have added their voices to the call for comprehensive legislation that will provide assistance to state and local law enforcement and amend federal law to streamline the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

The events of September 11th have demonstrated the destructive power of hate to rend the fabric of a community and a nation. Domestically, hate crimes statistics are a disturbing barometer of the state of the nation. In spite of national success in lowering overall crime rates, hate crimes have proven resistant to that trend. Data collected for 2000, pursuant to the 1990 Hate Crimes Statistics Act, documented 8,152 hate crimes, an increase of 3.5 percent from 1999 figures.

Overall, racial bias accounted for 54.3 percent of incidents, with religious bias accounting for 16.5 percent, sexual orientation 16 percent and ethnicity 12.4 percent of incidents. Notably, anti-black bias accounted for 35.6 percent of all racial bias and anti-Semitism accounted for 75.5 percent of all religious bias incidents.

In the wake of terrorist attacks, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee has investigated, documented and referred to federal authorities over 450 incidents. These incidents include the murders of a Muslim Pakistani store owner in Dallas, TX, and an Indian-American gas station owner in Mesa, AZ, where a suspect was arrested shouting, "I stand for America all the way."

The Department of Justice, however, has initiated only approximately 40 investigations of hate crimes directed against institutions or people of Arab or Middle-Eastern decent. As the James Byrd and Matthew Shepard tragedies suggest, the investigation and prosecution of this flood of hate crimes will strain the resources of state and local law enforcement agencies.

Current law limits federal jurisdiction to federally protected activities, such as voting for even covered classes of persons, so all these incidents will not be subject to federal jurisdiction. Moreover, current law does not permit federal involvement in a range of cases involving crimes motivated by bias against the victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that ten states have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 states have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

Our bill will remove these hurdles, so the federal government will no longer be handicapped in its efforts to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Through an Intergovernmental Assistance Program, federal authorities will be able to provide technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance to state and local law enforcement officials. In addition, the legislation authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to state and local law

23301

enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2001 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our nation—violence motivated by prejudice. It is vital that both government and individuals distinguish the beliefs of the Arab-American and Muslim communities from the perpetrators of September 11th's violence, and recognize that these Americans share our values and contribute significantly to our communities.

All Americans should stand to condemn any acts of bigotry, violence or discrimination against Arab-Americans, South Asians and American Muslims and call upon Americans of every faith and heritage to stand together in this time of national crisis. Our sense of community with fellow Americans of Arab and South Asian decent and those of the Islamic faith should not be counted as another casualty of September 11th's senseless violence.

MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICAL THERAPISTS ACT OF 2001

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my friend and colleague from Illinois to introduce a bill that will provide Medicare beneficiaries with direct access to qualified physical therapists. I join Mr. CRANE today in introducing the "Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act of 2001," a bill that is patient-focused, patient-friendly, and puts the patient first. This legislation will enhance access to quality health care services for Medicare beneficiaries under Part B and expand choices for Medicare beneficiaries.

The time is right for this legislation, Mr. Speaker. Thirty-four states currently allow direct access to physical therapists without a referral requirement. The citizens of my own State of North Dakota have been able to directly access their physical therapists since 1989 without limitation. Under this provision of State law, my constituents have enjoyed nearly unfettered access to the expertise of licensed physical therapists without the delay or added cost of a physician referral. This is especially important to rural areas of this country where we are frequently underserved by health care professionals. Physical therapists in North Dakota are able to treat many impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, and changes in health status for our residents, and as such, they contribute to making our population more productive and healthy.

Access to physical therapist services without a referral requirement already has been successful around the country. Studies conducted by Johns Hopkins and Georgetown University researchers demonstrate that utilization of services was actually lower in episodes of care initiated without referral than episodes initiated with a physician referral. My constituents—who incidentally make up the largest population of seniors per capita—are entitled